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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ann-Kristin Karlsson et al.      Art Unit : Unknown  
 Serial No. : Not yet assigned      Examiner : Unknown  
 Filed : November 27, 2001  
 Title : NEW COMPOSITION OF MATTER

Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Page 1, line 1, above "Field of the Invention" insert the following:

--      CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation (and claims the benefit of priority under 35 USC §120)  
 of U.S. application 09/230,781, filed January 29, 1999.      --

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 13, and 15-29.

Amend claims 3, 4, 6, 8-12, 14, 30, and 31 as follows:

3. (Amended) A pharmaceutically acceptable powder in the form of dry finely divided particles having a mass median diameter (MMD) of less than 10  $\mu$ m, said powder being sterilized and comprising a glucocorticosteroid or ester, acetal, or salt thereof, wherein the glucocorticosteroid or ester, acetal, or salt thereof comprises an asymmetric acetal structure.

4. (Amended) The powder according to claim 3, said dry powder containing greater than 98.5% by weight of the glucocorticosteroid or ester, acetal, or salt thereof.

6. (Amended) The powder according to claim 3, wherein the glucocorticosteroid or ester, acetal, or salt thereof is selected from the group consisting of budesonide, rofleponide and rofleponide palmitate.

*09/230,781*  
*Sub B1*  
*A1*  
*A2*